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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Competition is the lifeblood of our economic system. Where competition is denied, industries must be regulated in the public interest. Keep competition alive by making room for consumer choice. Fast internet access is essential for small-time operators like me to provide value to my customers. A diverse economy that allows for consumer choice is essential. Competition drives innovation and benefits consumers with lower prices and more choice. Increase in internet costs will not just damage my business but will do so for thousands of others, too. Fiber is essential to my business.

Don't destroy a competitive environment. Competition built this country. Do not interfere by raising prices, deregulation, and squeezing out small internet providers.

Christopher Richards